



# Fish and Wildlife Conservation

How Fish and Wildlife Dollars Are Used in Your Backyard

## Wood County



### County characteristics

- 792 sq. mi.
- In the west and south there are large areas of forest and wetlands; the northeast is farmland/woodland
- waters: Wisconsin River; warm-water streams, 79 lakes, 26 miles of trout streams
- Wisconsin Rapids and Marshfield are the major cities
- There are 75,555 residents living in Wood County



Fourth Graders Give to Mead Wildlife Area

### State Land Open to Hunting & Fishing

- 35,715 acres of State managed land
- 35,715 acres open to hunting
- Wood County Wildlife Area
- Sandhill Wildlife Area
- Tenmile Creek Fishery Area
- Portions of Mead Wildlife Area and Paul Olson Wildlife Area

Locate DNR properties at:

[http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr\\_land\\_mapping.html](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr_land_mapping.html)

### Fish and Wildlife Staff serving you

- DNR Service Center, 473 Griffith Ave., Wisconsin Rapids 54494
- 1 wildlife biologist, 2 conservation wardens, 1 wildlife technician, 2 fisheries technicians
- 3 customer service staff with 15 ALIS license

vendors supported in Wood County

- Sandhill Wildlife Area, 1715 Hwy "X", Babcock: 2 Wildlife Biologists; 3 Wildlife technicians.
- Staff also serves portions of Portage, Adams, Juneau, and Marathon counties.

### Activities Funded by Your Hunting and Fishing Dollars

- Establish and maintain grassland, oak barrens, and wetlands to benefit a broad range of game and non-game species.
- Establishment and maintenance of flowages on Mead, Sandhill, and Wood County Wildlife Areas
- Operation of the Sandhill Wildlife Area as a wildlife research facility.
- Promote the hunting, fishing and trapping heritage through the Sandhill Outdoor Skills Program
- Control exotic and invasive species such as purple loosestrife, leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, thistle, and goldenrod to assure quality native habitat.
- Manage DNR land by posting public hunting and access sites, build and maintain parking areas.

- Monitor local wildlife populations of ducks, geese, ruffed grouse, woodcock, deer, frogs, grassland birds, prairie chicken, eagles, osprey, and trumpeter swans.
- Respond to wildlife damage and nuisance complaints and monitor wildlife diseases including CWD and West Nile Virus
- The WI River creates a heavy workload for Conservation Wardens with excellent year-round fishing and recreational boating and snowmobiling opportunities." "As one of the top 20 deer producing Counties in the State, there is a huge fall workload for Wardens through the fall hunting seasons.

### ***Fish Stocking Summary***

- 2 Lakes stocked with walleyes and northern pike
- 2 Streams stocked with brown trout
- Wisconsin River stocked with muskellunge



Sandhill Outdoor Skills Program

### ***County Success Stories***

- The Sandhill Outdoor Skills Program has taught literally thousands of youth and adults to be ethical outdoor users and to promote our rich outdoor heritage.
- The Sandhill Wildlife Area has functioned as a wildlife research facility for over 40 years. Results from Sandhill research have had a tremendous influence on wildlife management, particularly deer and ruffed grouse management.
- Establishment of the Central Wisconsin Grassland Conservation Area to protect and enhance the grassland/open habitat to benefit numerous wildlife species including the Greater Prairie Chicken.

### ***Statewide challenges to maintaining your hunting and fishing opportunities***

- Without a fee increase as proposed by Governor Doyle, the Department of Natural Resources will be forced make numerous cuts in:
  - Fish and wildlife stocking programs; Conservation law enforcement; Public hunting acres; Fish and wildlife field biologists and Customer services
- Keeping upland, shoreline and aquatic habitat intact and functional
- Multiple user conflicts - Increasing pressure on public lands
- Rapid growth – urban sprawl
- Nuisance wildlife and invasion by non-native species
- Disease management